

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00

OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

STR-04 /081 W

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R 171348Z NOV 75

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 9235

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: TCWP MEETING ON INTERNAL POLICIES NOV. 12

REF: STATE 267479

1. SUMMARY: US CONCEPTION OF TCWP WORK PROGRAM FOR INTERNAL POLICIES ENCOUNTERED CONSIDERABLE RESISTANCE FROM OTHER DELS AT NOV. 12 MEETING, AND GROUP AGREED TO POSTPONE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE OF SECRETARIAT PAPERS UNTIL JANUARY 9. WE BELIEVE POSITIVE OUTCOME OF JANUARY MEETING WILL DEPEND HEAVILY ON WILLINGNESS OF USG TO PROVIDE IN ADVANCE A MORE ELABORATE PICTURE OF KINDS OF CONSENSUS IT WOULD LIKE TO SEE REACHED IN THIS EXERCISE AND ON US ABILITY TO COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF PAPERS. END SUMMARY

2. US DEL OPENED MEETING WITH PRESENTATION BASED ON REFTEL, TEXT OF WHICH HE ALSO CIRCULATED TO OTHER DELS. REACTION OF OTHER DELEGATIONS REVEALED GENERALLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDES. EC COMMISSION REP WAS IN FOREFRONT, ARGUING LOW PRIORITY OF THIS ACTIVITY COMPARED WITH OTHER OECD WORK, EXPRESSING DOUBTS ABOUT PRACTICAL VALUE OF A THEORETICAL EXERCISE OF THIS SORT, AND SAYING IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS FROM VERY COMPLEX SUBJECT MATTER. HE SUGGESTED POSTPONING CONSIDERATION OF PAPERS UNTIL MORE TIME AVAILABLE. COMMISSION WAS ECHOED BY UK AND FRG, AND SWEDEN WAS EVEN MORE NEGATIVE. AUSTRALIANS, WHILE MORE SYMPATHETIC TO US IDEAS, THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO TAKE IT UP SOMETIME AFTER UNCTAD IV. JAPANESE WISHED TO SUSPEND WORK UNTIL TRADE COMMITTEE AGENDA LESS FULL. FRENCH DEL WAS MORE INTERESTED IN PURSUING WORK NOW, BUT INDICATED GOF WAS LESS AMBITIOUS ABOUT OUTCOME THAN US. NO DEL REFUSED TO DISCUSS PAPERS IN PRINCIPLE, BUT US WAS RELATIVELY ISOLATED IN BELIEVING THIS COULD LEAD TO CONSTRUCTIVE RESULT.

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3. US DEL URGED OTHERS NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE EVENTUAL PRACTICAL UTILITY OF EXERCISE AND REMINDED GROUP TRADE COMMITTEE HAD ASKED THAT SUBJECT BE TAKEN UP AGAIN. HE SUGGESTED IT WOULD INVOLVE LITTLE STRAIN ON RESOURCES OF DELS OR SECRETARIAT TO HAVE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF PAPERS AND INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL FOR REACHING CONSENSUS ON CONCEPTS AND ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES AS ADJUNCT TO MEETING ON EXPORT CONTROLS

SCHEDULED FOR JAN. 7-8. TCWP GENERALLY AGREED TO THIS, ALTHOUGH SOME DELS THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THEIR POSITIONS BY THIS TIME AND SAW NO REASON WHY MATTER COULD NOT BE DISPOSED FOR GOOD AT NOV. 12 MEETING. SWEDISH DEL IN PARTICULAR PRESSED US FOR FURTHER ELABORATION OF ITS VIEWS ON DESIRABLE OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS IF JANUARY MEETING WAS TO HAVE ANY USE. FRENCH AND ITALIAN DELS SAID THEY WERE UNPREPARED TO DISCUSS SUBSTANCE AT NOV. 12 MEETING, ALTHOUGH MOST OTHER DELS INDICATED THEY WERE READY TO DO SO. US DEL, NOTING FRENCH AND ITALIAN POSITIONS AND ABSENCE OF CANADIANS, AGREED IT WOULD MAKE MORE SENSE TO HAVE COMPLETE DISCUSSION JAN. 9.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SOME DELS WERE ANNOYED AT PURELY PROCEDURAL NATURE OF NOV. 12 MEETING, IT WAS PROBABLY FORTUNATE THAT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION WAS PUT OFF TO JANUARY, GIVEN NEGATIVE APPROACH OF MOST OTHER DELS, INABILITY OF FRENCH AND CANADIANS TO JOIN DISCUSSION,

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AND FACT THAT US DEL ITSELF HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON SUBSTANCE OF SECRETARIAT PAPERS. TO MAKE JANUARY MEETING SUCCESS IT WILL BE HELPFUL AND PROBABLY NECESSARY FOR US TO CIRCULATE IN ADVANCE SOME ELABORATION OF US VIEWS ON WHICH KEY CONCEPTS AND ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES MIGHT FORM CORE OF CONSENSUS. MISSION COULD USE THIS IN EFFORT TO CONVINCE MORE NEGATIVE DELS OF PRODUCTIVE NATURE OF EXERCISE. IN ADDITION, MISSION WILL NEED SUBSTANTIVE GUIDANCE FOR EXAMINATIONS OF SECRETARIAT PAPERS BY JAN. 9. IN AREA OF ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES, WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF US COULD GIVE ABSTRACT EXAMPLES OF HOW IT GOES ABOUT CALCULATING TRADE EFFECT OF INTERNAL MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY OTHERS.

5. CANADA WAS UNREPRESENTED AT MEETING BECAUSE OF LACK OF INTEREST IN OTTAWA AND CONFLICTING MEETING SCHEDULES. GIVEN POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF CANADIAN INTERNAL POLICIES FOR US/CANADA TRADE FLOWS WE RECOMMEND DEPT ATTEMPT TO AWAKEN MORE INTEREST IN OTTAWA IN OECD WORK ON THIS SUBJECT. FACT THAT NEXT MEETING ON INTERNAL POLICIES WILL BE IN CONJUNCTION WITH ONE ON EXPORT CONTROLS MAY MAKE IT EASIER TO GET CANADIAN

REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND.
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